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Woman's Union Missionary Society.

HOSPITAL SERIES I.

OUR HOSPITAL IN CHINA.

JUST outside the native part of Shanghai stands a beautiful building of brick and gray stone, over whose entrance is carved: "MARGARET WILLIAMSON HOSPITAL, 1884."

As we pass into the hall, we see on our left a Chapel and Reception Room; at the back a Dispensary, reached also by a side entrance; with a Consulting and Operating Room close at hand. A winding staircase leads to the wards for Women and Children, with a smaller one for private patients. Two separate buildings furnish every accommodation for the necessary service in a large institution, while a room for the Chinese girls who are training as nurses has not been forgotten.

The 4th of June, 1885, was a day long to be remembered in the annals of our China Mission, for then the first Hospital in Shanghai *exclusively for women and children* was formally opened, in the presence of a large assembly of foreigners, mandarins and Chinese officials, the Right Rev. Bishop Boone, D. D., presiding.

The portrait of the beloved founder of the Hospital, Mrs. Margaret Williamson, was tastefully draped with American and Chinese flags, and told its own story of love and solicitude for those she would never see, but whose welfare was dear to her for the Master's sake. One, among a group of curious Chinese, who had listened eagerly to this tale of Christian generosity, expressed his appreciation thus: "She was like God; for His sake she loved us, and now, when we look upon this beautiful house, it is like seeing Jesus."

Let us, like the visitors of that sunny afternoon, step into

some of the rooms, and see the patients, who were among the first beneficiaries of the Hospital. In the Chinese reception room, three tablets, tastefully carved and painted, attract the eye of every visitor, for they announce, by the words, "Extraordinary Work," that a grateful husband in this gift, acknowledges his indebtedness for a skillful operation on his wife. In the words of our medical missionaries, we are thus introduced to this patient, who was the first in the Hospital and occupied the endowed bed, "Julia Cumming Jones."

"A native physician's wife, sixty-five years of age, had journeyed 200 miles to consult the 'foreign doctor.' She had suffered fifty years from a growth on her forehead, about the size of an egg. She carried a small hand mirror, which she constantly used, as half her enjoyment in life was looking at the tumor. On the third day after the Hospital was opened a successful operation was performed. Everything about the place was new and wonderful to this patient, and she took such manifest delight in all she saw, that it was a real pleasure to have her with us. A picture roll of twelve scenes in the life of Christ hung in the room, and it was astonishing how much she remembered of their explanation, given by our Bible Reader. She was always an attentive attendant at prayers, and our excellent Christian matron trusted that she might be led to worship the true God. She often visited the Dispensary and said, 'When I am at home how many marvels I will tell of the foreign doctor!'

"Before she left, she brought an ornamental wall-tablet in gold characters on a delicate pink ground, on whose right is the name of Dr. Elizabeth Reifsnyder, the country to which she belonged, and the name of the donor. In the centre is an appropriate selection from the Chinese classics setting forth the doctor's skill, while on the left is a brief history of the case and cure."

Doubtless the reputation of our physician was due to the success of a dangerous operation performed before our Hospital was opened. Of this, Dr. Reifsnyder wrote: "I am watching beside the first patient upon whom I operated for tumor, the first of its kind in North China. The woman came to me 500 miles in

a wheelbarrow, through the rain, and when an operation was decided upon, Dr. Boone kindly offered accommodations at St. Luke's Hospital. Six physicians were present during the operation, which consumed one hour and twenty-five minutes. There was very much at stake; not only the woman's life, but I am a woman, and an American, and the operation is one of the gravest. People whom I have never seen are greatly interested, and to the many who have prayed I doubtless owe my success. Without Miss McKechnie I could not have undertaken this operation, for her help is invaluable."

In the CHILDREN'S WARD of the Hospital may be found "a little slave girl, whose parents dying, she was sold by an uncle for sixty dollars. Though thirteen years old she never had a bath before she came to us. Our convenient bath room, with the united efforts of two Chinese women and plenty of soap and water, soon produced a comely maiden. She now looks happy enjoying the tasteful cloth picture books, sent out in our welcome mission boxes.

"Another patient, a little girl of twelve, afflicted with skin diseases, has been successfully treated. She was with us six weeks and, at the end of that time, her relatives scarcely recognized her altered appearance, from a frightful object to a very pretty child. She attended prayers daily, and although her friends are heathen, her father came regularly to our Chapel every Sunday, and occasionally I saw the mother and grandmother. We have done our part faithfully, and we leave the rest with God, who alone can open their hearts."

"A child with a broken thigh was with us five weeks, and two dolls offered her great consolation, while her delight over a bright-colored quilt from America knew no bounds."

"From Dr. Reifsnyder's Bible Class for the nurses and assistants at the Hospital, we have had some hopeful conversions, and it is growing in interest."

Nothing will give a clearer idea of the DISPENSARY than the figures representing the work of the past two years:

"There were registered in 1884, 1,289 patients, and over

3,000 prescriptions were filled. In 1885 we registered 3,129 patients and filled 7,388 prescriptions, in 1886, 16,135 patients were treated, 9,000 being new cases and 27,000 prescriptions were taken, and in 1891, 21,970 patients were treated, 13,415 being new cases and 29,654 prescriptions were given, thus showing how we are increasing in numbers. Our waiting room is filled with people as well as patients, to whom our faithful Bible Reader very earnestly tells the story of Divine love."

Such is a brief sketch of a work whose responsibility and cost is great. "To the doors of our hospital will come daily the mother seeking medical aid for herself and her little ones; the weary, heavy laden heathen women bearing many painful ills of the flesh and spirit. May it prove to all, by the help of Christian women, and the blessings of the Great Physician, a haven of love, rest and healing influences and a beacon for a blissful eternity!" And while we thus pray, let us reverently add, "What, dear Lord, shall be our share in this good work so well begun?" The sum of \$600 permanently endows a bed in the Margaret Williamson Hospital. We may have beloved ones who need no more to be watched and tended, but in their name, we may still soothe many heavy hours of pain. Who will embrace so beautiful an opportunity for the good of others? And who will help to fill the mission boxes to beguile the weary moments of the convalescent?

Will you dear reader?

S. D. D.

THE MISSIONARY LINK is the organ of the Society, giving monthly accounts of our medical work.

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Checks payable to the Woman's Union Missionary Society.